

Message Text

PAGE 01 SEOUL 03631 221005Z

11

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

SAM-01 AID-05 /071 W

----- 012285

P R 220934Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 208

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 3631

CANBERRA FOR HABIB

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, KS

SUBJECT: REACTION TO PRESIDENT PAK/KIM YONG-SAM MEETING

REF: SOUL 3600

1. MAY 22 PRESS CONTAINS EXTENSIVE INTERPRETATION AND COMMENT ON MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENT PAK AND NDP LEADER KIM YONG-SAM. UNDER RESTRAINTS EMERGENCY MEASURE, MEDIA REACTION PREDICTABLY HAS BEEN OVERWHELMINGLY FAVORABLE, WHILE KIM HAS BEEN PRAISED FOR HIS MODERATION. IN GENERAL PUBLIC REACTION HAS EMPHASIZED THAT COOPERATION SYMBOLIZED BY MEETING HAS STRENGTHENED NATIONAL SECURITY.

2. TONGA ILBO EDITORIAL ENDORSED MEETING FOR HAVING BEEN REQUESTED AND DEBATED IN OPEN RATHER THAN BEHIND SCENES. TONGA SAID THAT KIM YONG-SAM HAD GAINED ADDITIONAL RESPECT FROM THE PEOPLE AND ADDED THAT THE MEETING WAS ONLY POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF PUBLIC TRUST IN KIM AS OPPOSITION LEADER. TONGA DID INDIRECTLY CRITICIZE EMERGENCY MEASURE NINE BY STATING THAT IF MEETING HAD CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SEOUL 03631 221005Z

TAKEN PLACE EARLIER, CONDITIONS WHICH BROUGHT ABOUT MEASURE COULD HAVE BEEN ELIMINATED. PAPER EXPRESSED HOPE THAT NEW COOPERATIVE MOOD WILL ALLOW REPEAL OF EMERGENCY MEASURE.

3. CHUNGANG ILBO WRITES THAT ALTHOUGH GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION VIEWS WILL CONTINUE TO DIFFER, MEETING IS OPPORTUNITY TO BEGIN TO ADJUST RESPECTIVE VIEWS. CHUNGANG CALLED ON BOTH SIDES TO CONTINUE TO REFRAIN FROM ATTACKING EACH OTHER.

4. ACTUAL SUBJECTS OF DISCUSSION CONTINUE TO BE CLOSELY HELD. KIM YONG-SAM REPORTEDLY TOLD PARTY LEADERS MAY 22 NOT TO EXPECT IMMEDIATE SOLUTION TO PROBLEMS BUT THAT HE BELIEVES THE MEETING WAS USEFUL FOR NATION. NDP PARTY SPOKESMAN YI TAEK-TON IS QUOTED BY PRESS AS EXPRESSING HOPE THAT THE MOMENTUM OF MEETING WILL CONTINUE INTO GENUINE POLITICAL DIALOGUE.

5. PRIVATE REACTION HAS SO FAR CONTAINED LESS PRAISE FOR NDP LEADER. PRESS SOURCES HAVE TOLD US THEY ARE SURPRISED THAT KIM WENT THROUGH WITH MEETING SO COMPLETELY ON PRESIDENT'S TERMS. WE HAVE NO PUBLIC INDICATION AS YET THAT PAK MADE ANY CONCESSIONS ON DOMESTIC POLITICAL ISSUES. (YI CHOL-SUNG HAS TOLD US THAT KIM ASKED PRESIDENT FOR RELEASE OF FORMER NATIONAL ASSEMBLYMAN KIM HAN-SU WHO HAS BEEN IN JAIL SINCE 1972 FOR ALLEGED REMARKS HELPFUL TO THE COMMUNISTS. YI SAID HE EXPECTS KIM TO BE RELEASED SOON).

6. COMMENT: PRESIDENT PAK SEEMS TO HAVE SKILLFULLY OUTMANEUVERED KIM. PAK DREW ONE CONCESSION AFTER ANOTHER FROM HIM, NEGOTIATING THROUGH SEVERAL INTERMEDIARIES, AND FINALLY ACCEPTING KIM'S REQUEST FOR THE MEETING AFTER THE OPPOSITION HAD SUPPORTED THE JOINT ASSEMBLY SECURITY RESOLUTION AND MADE CLEAR ITS INTENTION TO ACQUIESCE TO EMERGENCY MEASURE NINE. KIM WAS FACED WITH SITUATION IN WHICH HE HAD MADE INITIAL REQUEST; TO BACK OUT WOULD APPEAR TO UNDERCUT NATIONAL SECURITY POSTURE. ON OTHER HAND, THE EXTENSIVE PUBLICITY AND PRAISE FOR KIM GENERATED CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SEOUL 03631 221005Z

BY THE MEETING ALSO WOULD HAVE BEEN HARD FOR KIM TO RESIST. GIVEN THE FACT THAT HIS HANDS WERE TIED IN AREA OF DISSENT BY INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS AND THE EMERGENCY MEASURE, HE HAS ENDED UP WITH SOME PERSONAL GAIN IN PRESTIGE BY BEING FORMALLY RECOGNIZED BY PRESIDENT AS LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION. SNEIDER

CONFIDENTIAL

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 26 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, POLITICAL LEADERS, POLITICAL SITUATION, PRESS COMMENTS, PUBLIC ATTITUDES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975SEOUL03631
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D750179-0920
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t197505104/baaaaujm.tel
Line Count: 105
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 JUL 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <09 JUL 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 971014
Subject: n/a
TAGS: PINT, KS, (KIM YONG-SAM), (PARK CHUNG-HEE)
To: STATE INFO TOKYO
CANBERRA
CINCPAC
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006